

former that he would use every exertion to carry out the desired undertaking. The Queen then partook of refreshment. Ices and pastry were liberally provided and handed to the ladies at their seats. Their Majesties then left, and the company dispersed. Certain savoury smells about this time began to proceed from tents in the rear of the great marquee, and a banquet was shortly afterwards prepared, in which fish, flesh, and fowl, and other delicacies, and some excellent champagne, served to renew the strength and exhilarate the spirits of the convives. Mr. Hislop and the operative engineers were here warmly complimented for their exertions in breaking ground. The weather had for two or three days previous been cloudy and inclining to rain; but on the morning in question a breeze sprang up, the clouds dispersed, and the sun shone most benignly upon the scene, and upon the beautiful landscape spread out at the feet of the spectators.

Time was when fleets of a hundred sail of merchantmen used to float upon the bosom of the magnificent and capacious Tagus. A system of railways in the Peninsula might enable a large share of the commerce

of America, and of those nations whose vessels now traverse the Atlantic, to avoid the dangers of the Bay of Biscay and the British Channel, for the merchandise destined for the continental ports.

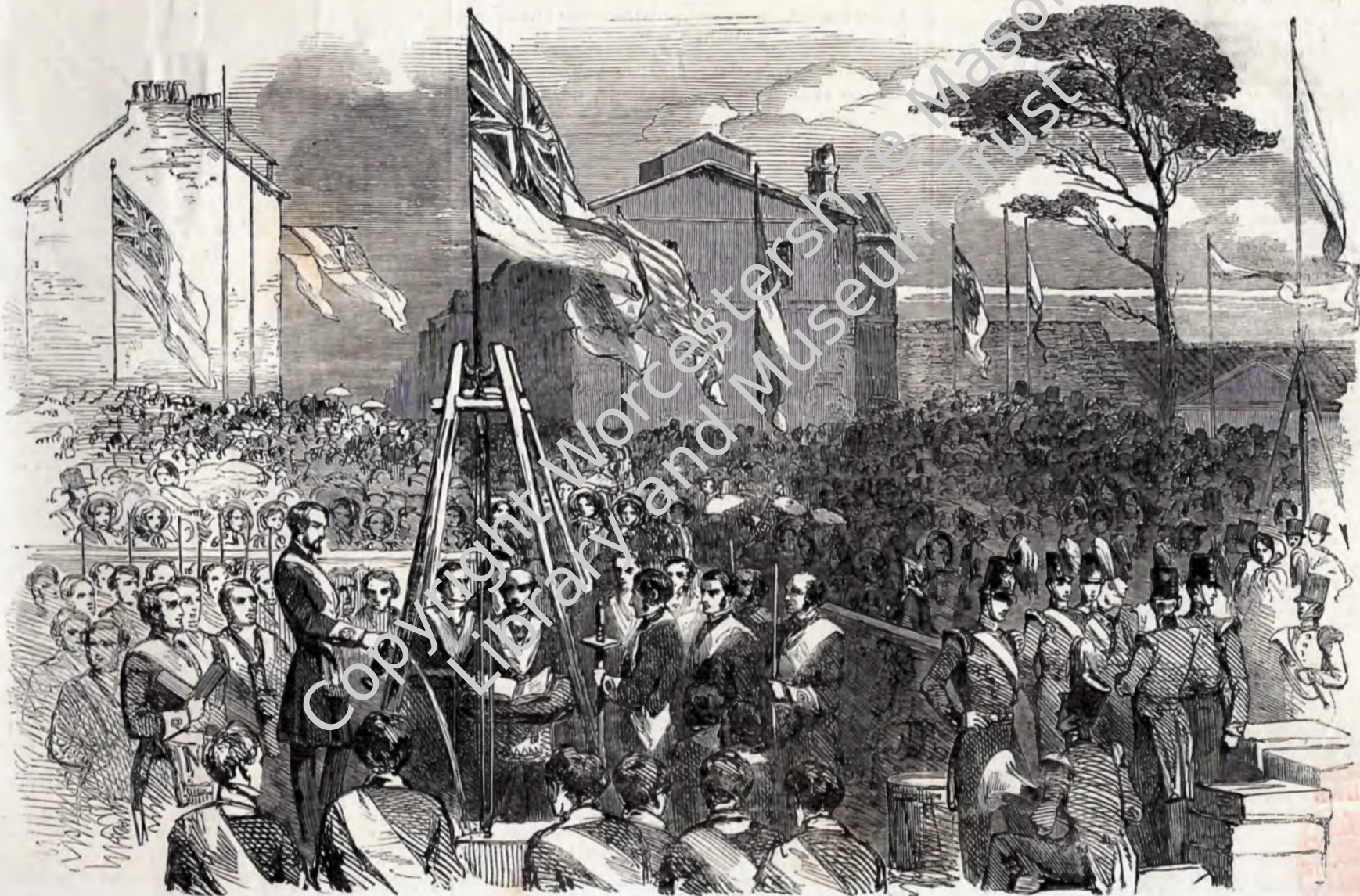
But whether English capitalists can safely entrust their property to the tender mercies of a repudiating Government is a question which we must leave our readers to decide for themselves.

#### GRAND MASONIC CEREMONY AT HULL.

LAST week we briefly recorded the ceremony of the laying of the foundation-stones of the Hull Subscription Library, and the Literary and Philosophical Society's Hall and Museum, on Tuesday, the 17th instant: the first by the Earl of Carlisle; and the second by Lord Lundesborough, the senior Grand Warden of the Masons of England. The latter ceremony was in due Masonic form; his Lordship being surrounded by the brethren of the Humber Lodge—the richest and most important in

the provinces—arrayed in their picturesque costume, and bearing the imposing insignia of their order. At half-past ten, the Masons assembled at their handsome lodge-room in Orange-street, and Lord Lundesborough officiated as Provincial Grand Master. At eleven o'clock the Masonic procession moved from the Lodge for the Public Rooms, headed by the splendid band of the 21st Regiment. The ancient standard, and the official costumes and paraphernalia, had a very splendid effect in the bright sunlight; and the display derived additional interest from its being the first "Provincial Masonic Procession" ever witnessed in Hull. At the public rooms it was joined by the Earl of Carlisle, the Mayor, Magistrates, Vicar, Clergy, Consuls, and corporate bodies of the town. The combined procession then advanced to the site of the proposed buildings, where the first stone of the Subscription Library was laid by the Earl of Carlisle, at the request of the President, Mr. Frost.

At the close of this ceremony the Earl of Carlisle, escorted by the Mayor, the President of the two Institutions, and heads of public



LORD LUNDESBOROUGH LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE HULL LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

bodies, followed Lord Londesborough, and the worshipful fraternity, of Masons, to the extreme north-east corner of the two united sites where preparations had been made for laying the first stone of the Literary and Philosophical Institution. Here Lord Londesborough, officiating as Provincial Grand Master, took his station at the stone, having around him the Provincial Grand Sword and standard-bearers, the P. G. Chaplain, Deputy P. G. Master, and other leading officials; besides the square, compass, level, plumb, &c. The P. G. Treasurer and Secretary took their position on the ground close by the stone; where, on a signal from the P. G. Master, the P. G. Chaplain commenced the ceremony by reading a portion of Scripture from the Psalm, "Except the Lord build the house;" after which he offered up a prayer; to which the brethren responded, "So mote it be."

P. G. then deposited a bottle containing the coins of the reign, and a scroll bearing an inscription, which the Provincial Grand Secretary read, and concluded by saying, "Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, I have deposited the inscription-plate over the mouth of the cavity."

The P. G. Grand Master then called the operative masons, who descended and spread the mortar on the lower stone, and fixed the upper stone, which was slowly lowered, and tested by the proper officers, the band striking up "Rule Britannia."

The President of the Literary and Philosophical Institution, Charles Frost, Esq., F.S.A., then presented the trowel to Lord Londesborough, and requested his Lordship to do the society the honour of laying the foundation-stone.

The Provincial Grand Master then proceeded to his task, which (says the *Hull Packet* report) his Lordship executed in a most expert and workmanlike style, which elicited general applause. At his command, the Junior Warden, the Senior Warden, and the Deputy Grand Master, in succession tested the stone, with plumb, level, and square, and reported in masonic phraseology, that the craftsmen had done their duty. His Lordship then took these several instruments by his own hands, and, having therewith, in all respects tested the stone, said—"I declare this stone to be correctly set, according to the rule of our craft." He then gave it three raps with his gavel, and returned to the platform. The Provincial Grand Officers then came forward, bearing the magnificent paraphernalia belonging to the grand lodge of England, consisting of a rich and massive cornucopia and two ewers, and a vessel of solid gold—the cornucopia alone being estimated, we were by competent judges, at upwards of a thousand guineas, and which, through the extreme courtesy of the Earl of Zetland, was brought down on the occasion by Brother White, grand secretary of England. The cornucopia was then handed by Brother Broadhead, Past Provincial Grand Sword-bearer to the Grand Master, the Earl of Londesborough, who, taking a handful of corn therefrom, threw it on to the stone, at the same time saying "I sprinkle this corn as an emblem of plenty; may the blessings of bounteous Heaven be showered down upon us, and may our hearts be filled with gratitude." To which the brethren responded, "So mote it be." Then taking the cup of wine from Brother Lewis, Past P. G. Sword-bearer, he poured it on the stone, exclaiming, "I pour this wine as an emblem of joy and gladness; may our hearts be made glad by the influence of divine truth, and may virtue flourish as the vine." To which the brethren, as before, responded, "So mote it be." Then taking the ewer of oil from Brother Chaffer, Past Provincial Standard-bearer, and sprinkling it in like manner on the stone, said, "I pour this oil as an emblem of peace; may peace and harmony, good-will and brotherly love abound among us." To which the same response was made, "So mote it be." His Lordship then said, "Brethren, having now, by permission of our right worshipful Grand Master, and with the assistance of the Freemasons of the North and East Ridings of Yorkshire, duly laid, according to the rules of this, our ancient craft, this first stone, it only now remains to implore the blessing of the Great Architect of the universe, and to implore that He will be pleased to bless this great building, and to grant that it may tend to the advancement of the interests of this great town."

Brother Sutton, Provincial Grand Chaplain, then offered a prayer after which Lord Londesborough inspected the plans.

The band then played the National Anthem; and, at the suggestion of Lord Londesborough, hearty cheers were given for her Majesty: the town and trade of Hull, Lord Londesborough, the Earl of Carlisle, and the Ladies were also honoured.

A procession was again formed, and returned to the public rooms, where a sumptuous public breakfast was served to 322 guests, of whom 20 were Masons. The President (Mr. Frost) ably filled the chair; and the after-breakfast proceedings, including a variety of appropriate toasts and eloquent addresses, were of an unusually interesting character, more especially in connection with the intellectual advancement of the city of Hull.